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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF : Jeffrey R. Ratkers, Robert C. Caillet  
FOR : HOT KNIFE CUTTER  
SERIAL NO. : 09/743,666 ✓  
FILED : January 10, 2001  
LAST OFFICE ACTION : July 19, 2002  
EXAMINER : Jason D. Prone  
GROUP ART UNIT : 3724  
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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this **SUPPLEMENTAL AMENDMENT A** is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231, on the following date.

August 1, 2002

By: Janet E. Sigler

Janet E. Sigler

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**SUPPLEMENTAL AMENDMENT A**

BOX AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231  
Dear Sir:

: In response to the Notice of Non-Compliance Amendment dated July 19, 2002 ,

Dear Sir:

Responsive to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment dated July 19, 2002, please correct the amendment filed June 14, 2002 as follows:

Substitute new page 5 of the amendment for page 5 of the original amendment as follows:

5.

stock and wherein a distance between the first lateral edge of the associated ply stock and the insertion point is less than or equal to the associated length of the trailing edge.

One advantage of the present invention is that the ply stock can be cut between adjacent cords without severing either cord.

Please replace [the sentences] lines 27 and 28 on page 3 of the application [lines 27 and 28] with the following:

lateral edge 22. The apparatus 10 also includes an anvil 26 for supporting the ply stock S in the immediate area below a cut line A-A shown in Figures 3 and 8. The embodiment of Apparatus 10 is shown in Figures 1 and 2.

Please correct the sentence on page 5, lines 19, 20, and 21 by substituting numeral 2 for numeral 3 after "Figure" as follows:

moved away from the anvil 26 in preparation for a successive cutting operation. The knife assembly is returned to a "home position 48 as shown in Figure 2 [3] where the blade 50 is heated again before beginning the next cut.

ply stock, and means for traversing the knife assembly between the first and second lateral edges of the ply stock, the knife assembly including a blade having a cutting portion including a leading point, a leading edge and a trailing edge, the trailing edge having an associated length, the cutting apparatus [being characterized by] comprising :

the knife assembly having a home position wherein the leading point of the blade is directly above an insertion point of an associated ply stock and wherein a distance between the first lateral edge of the associated ply stock and the insertion point is less than or equal to the associated length of the trailing edge.

One advantage of the present invention is that the ply stock can be cut between adjacent cords without severing either cord.

Another advantage of the present invention is that the ply stock can be severed without damaging either lateral edge of the ply stock.

Still other benefits and advantages of the invention will become apparent to those skilled in the art upon a reading and understanding of the following specification.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS:**

On page 5, lines 19, 20, and 21 please substitute numeral 2 for numeral 3 after “Figure” as follows:

The knife assembly 14 is returned to a “home” position 48 as shown in Figure [3] 2 where the blade 50 is heated again before beginning the next cut.